

REMARKS

Claims 2-22 remain in this application. Claims 2, 3, 17, 19 and 22 have been amended. No new claim has been added. Claim 1 was previously canceled. All other claims remain the same. Full consideration of the claims as now presented is requested.

Applicants appreciate Examiner's indication of the novelty and non-obviousness of the subject matter of claims 2-22.

Claims 2-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd Para. as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Insofar as it may apply to the present claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Examiner suggests amending the preamble of the independent claims. Applicants have amended the preamble of claims 2, 17 and 19 as suggested by Examiner.

Examiner states that the phrase "quaternary ammonium cation" is unclear and that it is not clear what quaternary ammonium cations are being referred to. Applicants disagree. The phrase "quaternary ammonium cation" is a term of art widely used in the chemical arts. The term is taken to mean "a positively charged polyatomic ion of the structure NR_4^+ , where R is covalently bound to the nitrogen atom via a carbon atom".

Applicants note that Examiner has apparently not taken into consideration the subject matter of dependent claims that further define the cation with specific structures. The specification includes several different examples of quaternary ammonium cations useful for the invention, and various claims define the structure of the quaternary ammonium cation as $(\text{NR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3\text{R})^+$. In fact, claims 3 and 22 provide specific definition of the term quaternary ammonium cation. Moreover, claims 8, 9, and 19 define the identity of specific cations, and claim 10 lists specific compounds, wherein the identity of the cation is specified.

The subject matter of claim 3 has been added to claim 2, and claim 17 has been amended to add the subject matter of claim 22. In addition, the definitions of the substituents (see also claims 3 and 22) have been amended such that R, R₁, R₂, and R₃ are not hydrogen. Accordingly, a quaternary ammonium cation of the formula $(\text{NR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3\text{R})^+$ does not include embodiments wherein R, R₁, R₂, or R₃ is hydrogen. This definition is in accordance with the definition of quaternary ammonium cation as used in the chemical arts.

Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 2-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd Para. has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

In view of all the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that they have made a diligent effort to move the claims to allowance by presenting amendments, as requested, and supportive argumentation. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in form for allowance and request an early notice of allowance therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

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